not State/area specific. It covers all segments viz fruits and vegetables, milk products, bakery and confectionary products, meat, poultry, fishery, oil seeds, spices, coconut and mushroom. Under the Scheme financial assistance is provided @ 25% of the project cost in general areas and @ 33.33% in difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh and Rs. 75 lakh respectively. Funds released for the State of Orissa during the last three years is Rs. 117.25 lakhs under various Plan Schemes of the Ministry.

Capacity of sea-food processing industry

3023. CHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sea-food processing industry In the country is utilizing only around 20 per cent of its capacity;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by Government for reaching full-capacity utilization with specific reference to availability of new material; and

(d) whether Government will consider to review its policy on sea-food industry to provide impetus to this industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY):(a) to (d) The see-food processing industry in the country is utilizing only about 20 per cent of the annual installed capacity primarily due to shortage of raw material and increase in domestic demand of fish which is growing at an annual rate of 2.4 per cent. However, the utilization goes up in peak seasons.

Government have taken various measures to improve the availability of raw material for better capacity utilization and consequent growth of sea-food processing industry, which include *inter alia* the following:—

(i) Development of deep sea fishing for harvesting under exploited resources such as tuna, cephalopods and Pelagie finfish.

(ii) Increase of production by processing aquaculture of fresh water and blackish water through Fish Farmers Development Agencies which includes development of new farms, renovation of existing farms, farming inputs etc.

(iii) Promotional activities and financial schemes for the farmers for sustainable shrimp/scampi culture in India.

(iv) Development of infrastructure for setting up of fishing harbours and fish landing centres.

(v) Assistance for motorization of traditional crafts and conversion of trawlers into long liners.

(vi) Promulgation of comprehensive marine fishing policy addressing conservation and management issues.

(vii) Enactment of Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act for ensuring sustainable development of coastal aquaculture.

(viii) Encouraging processors to import raw material for reprocessing and export.

Wastage due to lack of storage facilities

3024. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHi: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts have been made by his Ministry to reduce the wastage due to non-availability of storage facilities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY):(a) to (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its Plan Schemes provides financial assistance in the form of grant in aid for setting up as well as for expansion/modernization including increasing of capacity in respect of the following kinds of cold storages:

(i) Cold storage for non-horticulture produce;

(ii) Where the cold storage is an integral part of the processing unit or of the common facilities in food park; and

(iii) Special type of cold storage with Controlled Atmosphere/Modified Atmosphere facility.

The scheme is aimed to promote creation of cold storage facilities to reduce wastage of perishable produce. The Ministry does not set up cold storages on its own. A statement showing the number of cold storages approved for assistance by the Ministry during 10th Plan period, State-wise, is given.